UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN MILWAUKEE DIVISION

ESTATE OF JAMES FRANKLIN PERRY
by NATHANIAL CADE, JR.,
Special Administrator, and
JFP, Jr.,

Plaintiffs,

Vs.

RICHARD LOPEZ, et al.,
Defendants.

Defendants.

EXCERPT TRANSCRIPT OF JURY TRIAL

BEFORE THE HONORABLE J. P. STADTMUELLER
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Official Court Reporter: Richard Derrick Ehrlich, RMR, CRR richard_ehrlich@wied.uscourts.gov (414) 290-2642

Proceedings reported by stenotype. Transcript produced by computer-aided transcription.

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MS. LAPPEN: Good morning. I would like to start by saying that the loss of a loved one is a tragic and terrible thing to go through, and on behalf of the officers and myself, I want to extend nothing more but respect to the family members and our deepest sympathies; however, in this particular case, I'm representing 11 police officers who are being accused of disregarding Mr. Perry and doing nothing, and that caused his death as counsel has indicated.

We anticipate that the evidence that's presented to you in this case will provide you with the following information: Mr. Perry was taken into custody by police officers in the early morning hours of that day. They had a report of a woman whose car was stolen at gunpoint. A car matching the description of the stolen car was observed by officers and pulled over. Mr. Perry was driving that car.

In the course of the stop, they found the woman's purse and cell phone on the front seat next to Mr. Perry.

In the course of speaking with him, Mr. Perry admitted that he had taken that vehicle from the woman at the original scene of the event that led to the call for police assistance.

Mr. Perry was booked in, which is a process whereby he was brought into the downtown police administration facility jail. It's a temporary holding facility. He was brought in and booked. And in the process

of being booked, which is fingerprinted and photographed,
Mr. Perry, like any other prisoner, was asked a series of
medical screening questions to give the officers an idea if
there was an imminent need for any type of medical care.
The evidence, or information, will indicate that, yes, he
had indicated to the screening officer that he did suffer
from seizures and he took seizure medication. The evidence
will also indicate that he did not ask for seizure
medication. He did not indicate that he was having any
issue with regard to his epilepsy or seizure condition.

The evidence will show that Mr. Perry was maintained at the PPS facility. Again, it's a temporary holding facility.

You will learn that prisoners who are taken into custody in the context of a police investigation are kept at that location. Again, it's at 7th Street -- roughly 7th and State in the City of Milwaukee because that is also where the main detective bureau is located. So having a prisoner who is taken into custody while there's an ongoing investigation, they will be kept at that facility until the detectives feel that they no longer need to question that person or perhaps have that person participate in a lineup whereby the victims of crimes are brought in and asked to view people and determine if that person is, in fact, the person that, you know, committed the crime. So people are

kept there. It's not a long-term facility. They're not kept there for long periods of time, but it's a temporary holding facility.

So Mr. Perry was kept at this facility. The evidence will show that at about 11:00 in the morning, he was removed from what they call the male bullpen. It's a very large room with benches and a toilet, and it's a room where prisoners are kept while they're in the process of being interviewed or while the investigation is ongoing.

In any event, Mr. Perry was removed from the bullpen at about 11:00, 11:15 in the morning. He was questioned by an investigating detective relative to his involvement in the underlying incident that led to his being taken into custody earlier in the morning.

The detective will testify that at no time during that roughly 45 minutes did Mr. Perry indicate he was having any issue, medical or otherwise. I believe the detective offered and got him a soda or Coke, something like that, to drink while they were conducting the interview. And, subsequently, the detective put Mr. Perry back into the bullpen until he was wrapping up his investigation.

There was an ongoing investigation relative to some other issues. Mr. Perry apparently was in the company of another man; that other man struck the woman, who had a car stolen, with a pistol. And there were a lot of players

and information that they're going through, but, ultimately, they would be moving Mr. Perry, they knew, to the criminal justice facility.

The criminal justice facility is literally located about a block from the downtown PPS, the city jail, and that is where prisoners are brought for longer term incarceration. So they all knew that that is ultimately where Mr. Perry would be brought.

About 2:30 or so in the afternoon, the evidence will show you that Mr. Perry did suffer a seizure while he was in that bullpen area; that as soon as officers observed that, an ambulance was called. Paramedics arrived. They provided care to Mr. Perry. He acknowledged that he did suffer from seizures. He was what they call postictal. So after he had the seizure, he had this affect of being sluggish and tired, but he could respond to questions appropriately. He knew his name. He knew the date. He knew he could answer those basic questions. So he was conscious, talking, and aware. And the paramedics took Mr. Perry to Sinai Samaritan Hospital, which was a couple of blocks from the city jail downtown.

The evidence will show -- and we'll have the treating practitioner; so the two docs that treated him at the hospital.

We'll have a video of the nurse that was his

primary caregiver, and, of course, Officers Kroes and Jacks, who were the transporting officers. They will testify that while Mr. Perry was at the Sinai Samaritan emergency room, he sustained two additional significant seizures, one lasting over five minutes long. While he was there, when he first arrived, the initial treating doctor will indicate that what he did was he had ordered up some medication -- it's called Dilantin -- which is a very commonly used medication to treat seizure activity; that he had ordered up some Dilantin for Mr. Perry, but he also had blood drawn because he wanted to find out if there was any of Mr. Perry's medication already existing in his bloodstream. He didn't want to give him more than what was necessary for treatment.

While the toxicology of the blood test results were coming back, Mr. Seizure -- Mr. Perry sustained one of his additional seizures. He was given a dose of what is called Ativan. That is a medication that they give to people who are in the course of having a seizure, and the purpose of giving him that medication is to reduce the affects of the seizure. So he was given this Ativan. Then they were going to give him intravenously the Dilantin.

What they learned from the blood test results was that Mr. Perry did have some of his Dilantin, some of his own anti-seizure medication still in his bloodstream. So

then Dr. Coogan, who was his treating practitioner, reduced the amount that he ordered Mr. Perry to be given from 1 gram to 750 milligrams; reduced it by about a quarter.

While the nurses were attempting to put that medication into Mr. Perry's system intravenously, they had a flareup. Apparently the vein got enlarged, what they call it being infiltrated. So they could not successfully get that medication into him. They had to try some different veins, some different things. But, ultimately, they did get the IV into Mr. Perry. They did give him the full dose that the doctor had ordered of the Dilantin.

Mr. Perry had a second seizure; this one lasting about five minutes long. He got a second dose of Ativan with regard to that second seizure.

So all told, during the three hours that Mr. Perry was at the hospital, he sustained two additional significant seizures, and he was given three different doses of anti-seizure medication.

Dr. Coogan will indicate that those medications can have a cumulative -- I can't say the word. An effect where the total of the three is greater than the sum. So, in other words, the cumulative effect -- there you go -- and that anticipated effects of that medication would be that the person would be very sleepy, sluggish, and have that type of physical responses. There would be relaxing of

musculature in the body.

The evidence will tell you that when Mr. Perry had his last of the medication into his system -- this was about 5:45 in the evening -- Officer Kroes and Officer Jacks were told that he was ready to be released. They were a little concerned because of the fact that when Mr. Perry came into the facility, he was able to answer their questions. He appeared to understand what they were saying to him. He could walk on his own pretty well. Now they had a man in his hospital room who was having difficulty walking. They walked with him to the bathroom, one officer on each side, because he was very wobbly.

When they were speaking with him, he was drooling. They were talking to him, and it didn't seem to the officers like he was understanding fully what it was they were asking him about, so they raised these concerns to the nurse and said, "Hey, are you sure this guy is ready to go?"

And the nurse left and came back and gave them information indicating that, yes, what they were seeing was Mr. Perry under the influence of this medication, that he was fine, that he could stay in the ER another hour or so just to make sure there wasn't any kind of adverse reaction to the medication going on, then the doctor was releasing him. He would be released to go.

In the meantime, Dr. Coogan had left for the

night. Dr. Jahnke became the treating practitioner. She came into the hospital and into the sequence of events at about the time Mr. Perry was getting the last of the Dilantin into his system.

Dr. Jahnke will indicate that she did not physically touch Mr. Perry. She did not speak with him. She will indicate that she did receive information from Dr. Coogan about his status; that Dr. Coogan told her that once Mr. Perry got this medication, he would be free to be released from the hospital back into the officers' custody. And she will indicate that she did see Mr. Perry in the emergency room area as he was walking to the restroom, and she could see that Mr. Perry was wobbling, and that there was an officer on each side arguably helping him to walk in a more controlled fashion, but that will be the extent of her testimony.

In any event, the officers were still somewhat concerned for Mr. Perry. They called Lieutenant Robbins, their supervisor. They indicated, "Hey, you know, he was in this condition when we brought him in. He's been treated and medicated. Now we see him in this state. What should we do?"

And Lieutenant Robbins indicated, "Well, if the doctor has released him, you can rely on that information.

Bring him back to PPS. We'll finish his paperwork, and then

we'll bring him to CJF."

So that is what the officers did. It took about a couple of minutes to get from the hospital back to the city jail, the PPS building.

When they got there, Mr. Perry was resistive to getting out of the squad car. He was somewhat kicking, not responding to what the officers were telling him. The officers then notified their supervisor of this, and two additional officers were called to help, Officers Bungert and Santiago.

So they met Officers Kroes and Jacks in the garage, which is on the main floor of the city jail building; and, ultimately, they had to assist Mr. Perry for his security and safety. For their own security and safety, they essentially carried him into the elevator so that he wouldn't kick, he wouldn't resist.

All the officers, believing that he was a man who had just been medically cleared from the hospital, that he was under the influence of anti-seizure medication, that he had sustained several seizures that day, and they accounted for that as being a cause behind the behaviors that they were observing.

The officers will tell you that they received first responder training. So our police officers are not medical doctors. They do receive a basic CPR training so

they can operate an AED, or the -- you know, the device used to shock an individual's heart. They have that basic first responder training. They are trained that when they observe something that appears to be medical going on in their presence with a prisoner, with a citizen, with a coworker, that they should -- first of all, if it seems to be an emergency call for help, then assist the person the best that they can until more advanced medical practitioners like EMTs or paramedics arrive on the scene.

They will indicate that with regard to what they observed with Mr. Perry from the point in time that he got out of the hospital and was medically cleared to the point in time when he was being brought up to the PPS, they didn't observe anything which indicated to them that he was experiencing a medical emergency. What they observed was someone who they thought was under the influence of medication, and, again, suffering from the aftereffects of seizure activity.

So they brought him upstairs. You will see videotape of that. You will see video images of the officers bringing him down a hallway, keeping him at the end of the hallway.

They indicated that they -- or will indicate that they sat him on the floor because they were concerned -- earlier in the day, when he was in the bullpen and had a

seizure, he had fallen off a bench, and one of the inmates had reported that he thought Mr. Perry had hit his head. So they didn't want that to happen again, so they sat him on the floor.

They will indicate to you that they stood around him, they held him upright, that he wanted to go over to the floor. It was like he wanted to go to sleep or lay down. They wanted to keep him upright. They wanted him to breathe well. They wanted his diaphragm to be open and upright. They were talking with him trying to calm him while decisions were being made by Lieutenant Robbins and other jail staff as to what cell to put him in and how he would be processed further.

While he was seated on the floor, Mr. Perry, who had been drooling at the hospital, did begin to spit. The officers will tell you that they are trained relative to being aware of biohazards, of bloodborne pathogens.

In response to a prisoner spitting, they get a paper towel, like a mesh spit mask, and put it over him. They did that with Mr. Perry. They could see him through the mesh. And, yes, there was mesh, but they could see him. They could see his chest rising. They could hear him. He was talking with them. He was answering their questions and so forth. But they put the spit mask on, not to be inhumane, not to punish him. It was just simply a biohazard

protection for anyone who would be either transporting or touching or interacting with Mr. Perry while he was there.

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While he was on the floor, yes, there was this point in time when he did say, "I can't breathe." It was shortly after this paper and mesh spit mask was put over his And the officers will indicate to you that is a common response from people when they get the spit mask over their head. But the officers reassured him, "No, if you're talking, you're breathing," which is something they had learned through their EMS training. And not once again did Mr. Perry complain about having difficulty breathing. Not once did they -- in this whole course of events did they observe that Mr. Perry appeared to be using his muscles on his neck or his shoulders or chest in order to breathe. appeared to be breathing normally. So they didn't conclude that there was anything wrong with his breathing. didn't conclude that there was anything else going on. They will tell you that there was no complaint of chest pain, of arm pain. They did not observe a drooping face during the point in time when Mr. Perry's face was unobstructed.

So, in any event, ultimately, he was put in cell

A3. He was put in that cell because it doesn't have a bench
from which he could fall. They moved him into that cell
block area.

The officers will tell you that they did not drop

him. They carried him in a seated position with his body and torso upright and perpendicular to the floor and his butt and legs parallel to the floor. He may have been put down on his butt while they were opening the door before they carried him in, but he was not dropped. And in the process of moving him from the spot in the hallway to his jail cell, you will learn that primarily Officer Kroes, Officer Jacks, Officer Santiago, and Officer Bungert had assisted with carrying him. As they were walking along the hallway, Officer Lee saw they were carrying this man. He came in and helped with the carrying process.

You will see from the videos that Lieutenant
Robbins was present. He was watching what was going on. He
was working in his office trying to expedite Mr. Perry being
brought to the county facility. He knew that Mr. Perry had
been at the hospital. He knew he had seizures, but
Lieutenant Robbins will tell you that he also knew that
there were trained nurses who were employed at the county at
the CJF. The city jail does not have medical staff. So he
knew that if he could process him, get his paperwork
together, once he got to the CJF, if Mr. Perry needed more
medication, if he was having an adverse reaction down the
road, it would be good for him to be there because, again,
there were trained people there.

So Officer Diaz-Berg, Officer Ayala were both

assigned to the jail. They will indicate to you that, ultimately, after about an hour, the paperwork was located. They were ready to transport him. And then Officer Salinsky and Lopez were assigned to do the transport.

Could we put up photograph 1137B?

So you will see videotape. There's some from the hallway. There's some video cameras that were in some of the rooms along the way. There was a video camera that was located in the elevator, and we took some stills from that video. And the photo that I'm going to have brought up is a photo of Mr. Perry as he's on his way to the CJF.

So he had been medically clearly at Sinai. He had been brought back to the city jail. He was kept in a cell for about an hour and 15 minutes while the paperwork was completed. This is Mr. Perry at that point in time. So he's a couple minutes away from being brought to the CJF.

As you can see, and the officers will describe for you, he is wearing the spit mask. The blocking material is like a paper towel-like material. It is not wet. It is not saturated. Mr. Perry's face can be seen in the mesh. He is breathing. He is standing. He is bearing his own weight.

Yes, officers were assisting him. Officer Ayala and Officer Lopez were helping him on either side, and Officer Salinsky was helping him to the rear. Mr. Perry had these oversized pants that some men wear, and the officer

was concerned that they would fall down and he would trip on them. So Officer Salinsky was actually holding up his blue jeans to keep them from falling down so he could walk easily.

But this is a photo. There's no blood on his shirt; no staining on his shirt. There is no feces on the exterior of his clothing; no feces on his spit mask. And so Officer Ayala and Officer Diaz-Berg, who were present when Mr. Perry came in and were present when he was being transferred, will tell you that he actually appeared to get better. It seemed to them that the affects of the medication were wearing off because while he had to be carried in to the PPS, he was walking out.

After he was brought down through the elevator,
Mr. Perry was then transported over to the CJF. Again, it's
literally, like, a block, block-and-a-half from the PPS. It
took maybe a minute or two to drive over there.

The officers will tell you that when they got there, they pulled into the sally port, which is, like, this parking area for the entranceway to the jail facility. And they parked. They got out. They removed Mr. Perry.

Officer Salinsky will tell you that during transport, there was a big plexi window. He could look through that window. He was seated in the front passenger seat. He was looking through the window and monitoring

Mr. Perry visually for the whole ride. Officer Lopez was driving. And they will tell you that when they got there, deputy sheriffs came and helped them remove Mr. Perry from the vehicle. Again, a concern in a law enforcement setting, as was throughout this course of events, is security and safety for everyone. So other officers came to help.

You will see video, other video, from the jail facility that shows when Mr. Perry walks through the entranceway, he is carrying his own weight. He's taking steps.

After he comes through the facility a few steps, you will see that his knees buckle. When his knees buckle, the officers bring him over to the nurse's station, and they get the nurses involved with evaluating him.

The officers will tell you that at no time -- and this is all of the 11 officers -- at no time did they believe during any event that day, after Mr. Perry was medically cleared and released from the hospital, that he was suffering from a medical emergency.

They will tell that you at no time did they think that there was anything going on which necessitated them to call an ambulance or get him back to the hospital. What they perceived was they were dealing with somebody who, again, was dealing with aftereffects of seizure activity that day and seizure medication.

They will tell you that their training provided that if there was an emergency, something like a seizure, a heart attack, a stroke, obvious shock, obvious allergic reaction, they would call an ambulance. That's not a problem; in fact, they had done that earlier in the day for Mr. Perry. But at no time after he was medically cleared from the hospital did they perceive that he was in need of emergency medical care.

You will see a videotape from a now-deceased deputy sheriff, Deputy Kleckbush. She will testify that when Mr. Perry came into the facility, she, a trained law enforcement officer, did not perceive that he was suffering from a medical emergency.

Nurse Virgo and Nurse Wenzel -- will tell you when he first came in, they thought that, yeah, he should probably go back to the hospital to be checked out because they felt uncomfortable about what he was presenting, because by then his knees had buckled. He was not responding to their questions verbally. When they asked his name, he nodded. When he was asked if he had seizures, he nodded. But they were concerned. They will tell you that even at that point, they did not believe that he was suffering from a medical emergency. It was only until Nurse Wenzel, after he had been in the facility for several minutes, she had his mask

removed, and she wanted to wipe his face because by then, they had noted some kind of frothy sputum. And in wiping his face, she had eye contact with him, and suddenly his eyes rolled back, and he became unresponsive. And, at that point, she believed a medical emergency was occurring.

By then, though, an ambulance had already been called to transfer Mr. Perry back to the hospital. But they will tell you, again, trained medical professionals, that even they did not believe that Mr. Perry, when he came in the CJF building, was experiencing a medical emergency which required an ambulance to come and transport him to the hospital, get him more advanced medical care.

You will hear from other witnesses. You'll hear from Mr. Puechner, who was a retired janitor at the jail facility, that when he was doing his janitorial duties, Mr. Perry was in his cell. And at one point in time, Mr. Perry had put his face to the opening in the cell door and asked him what time it was.

So he will tell you that while Mr. Perry was in PPS, he had talked to him and asked him about the time and appeared to be fine.

You will hear from a variety of other witnesses and whatnot, but I think I provided you with essentially a roadmap to follow as we present the witnesses to you throughout the course of this trial.

1 So, again, it's the position of the officers that, 2 yes, the loss of life is tragic, and it's regrettable, and 3 they have sympathy for the family. But in this particular 4 set of circumstances, we will present to you witnesses and 5 evidence which establishes that when they were interacting 6 with Mr. Perry along the course of his processing that day, 7 that once he had been medically cleared at the hospital, 8 they believed that he was simply under the affects of 9 medication. It's much like if they would have somebody who 10 was intoxicated. You know the person is drunk. 11 that they're walking awkwardly, slurring their speech, maybe 12 spitting or drooling, but officers would have a belief, a 13 reasonable belief that eventually that alcohol is going to 14 wear off and the person is going to get better. It was the 15 same perspective with regard to Mr. Perry. They felt that 16 he was under the influence of these medications. 17 you'll see from the video information, including the still that we have in front of us here, by the time he was 18 19 transported from the prisoner processing section to the CJF, 20 he was carrying his own weight. He was standing. 21 no evidence of any kind of spit or blood or vomit or 22 anything on his face, facial mask, nothing on the exterior 23 of his clothing. And, in fact, they felt that he was, as I 24 said earlier, getting better; that the affects of the 25 medication were wearing off and that he was fine to

transport to the criminal justice facility. I thank you for your attention. As the judge indicated, because we're the Defense, we present our evidence second. So I ask that you keep an open mind throughout the plaintiff's case and realize that there is another side to the story and not make a decision in this matter until you've heard from everybody. Thank you. (Excerpt concluded.)

CERTIFICATE I, Richard D. Ehrlich, a Registered Merit Reporter and Certified Realtime Reporter, certify that the foregoing is a true, complete, and accurate transcript of the proceedings ordered to be transcribed in the above-entitled case before the Honorable J.P. Stadtmueller, an jury, in Milwaukee, WI, on March 25, 2019. s/Richard D. Ehrlich March 26, 2019 Richard D. Ehrlich, Official Court Reporter